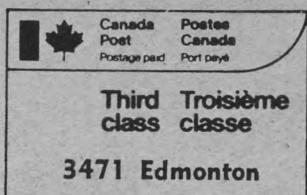


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Scandinavian Centre News

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December-January 1979-1980



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and Happy New Year**

Board of Directors, March 1979

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APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF CANADA



Ottawa, October 24, 1979 — The Consul of Finland for Northern Alberta, Mr. Christian Graefe, CM (left) receiving the congratulations of the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency Edward Schreyer, Chancellor and Principal Companion of the Order of Canada.

Christian Graefe was born in Helsinki, Finland, in 1932, educated in Finland and Germany, and came to Canada in 1952.

From 1952-54 he was employed with the Federal Dept. of Agriculture and the Ford Motor Co. in Oakville and Toronto, then served with the Canadian Army (Royal Canadian Dragoons) from 1954-56 and with Western Command Headquarters in Edmonton from 1956-57. From 1957-64 he was a salesman with Weber Bros. Real Estate Co. in Edmonton, then worked as an Investment Counsellor from 1964-67. From 1967-69 he was Director of the International Division of Weber Bros., until he left to form his own company, Christian Graefe & Co. Investment Consultants Ltd., of which he is President.

At the present time Mr. Graefe is also President of the International Canadian Petroleum Exhibition and Conference Ltd.

In 1975 he was

nominated Honorary Consul of Finland for Northern Alberta by the President of Finland, and accorded definitive recognition by the Government of Canada in 1976.

He is the Founding President and Past Director of the German Canadian Business and Professional Association of Alberta; Past Chairman of the Western Committee of the Canadian German Chamber of Industry and Commerce Inc.; Past Director of the Edmonton Real Estate Board, Scandinavian Centre and Edmonton Exhibition Association; Mission Organizer of the City of Edmonton Industrial Development Mission to Europe in 1965; Mission Co-ordinator of the Province of Alberta Ministerial Tour to Europe in 1971; Member of the British Commonwealth Games Delegation to the Olympics in Munich in 1972; and a sponsor of the Scandinavian Businessmen's Club.

DR. T.M. NELSON RECEIVES AWARD

Dr. Thomas M. Nelson, head of the Psychology Department, University of Alberta, received an Achievement Award from the Government of Alberta on November 10th at the Calgary Inn Ballroom.

The plaque reads: 1979 Alberta Achievement Award Program, Excellence Award Category. Presented to Albertans Who Have Been Noted For Exceptional Contributions And/Or Achievement In A Professional Or Occupational Capacity At National Or International Levels.

SOLGLYT SPOTLIGHT

by Bob Burt

A taping of a Norwegian program was held on December 14th on Village Square and will be seen on ITV — Channel 13 — in January.

Sig and Selma Sorenson, Gary and Evelyn Johnson, and Harry and Betty Haugen attended the 10th Anniversary of Northern Lights Lodge No. 493 at Grande Prairie on October 27th. Harry was Master of Ceremonies, and Sig was guest speaker. Northern Lights is now in their new hall, of which they are very proud.

Wally Broen flew to Los Angeles on December 8th to be present at the 25th Anniversary gathering of his Calgary School (SAIT) Flying Class; this year it was held at Torrance, not far from San Diego.

Ken Domier travelled to New Orleans, Louisiana, December 9th to attend the annual American Society of Agricultural Engineers. He presented a paper on 'Tire Traction' — a research on tractor tires.

Inge and Betty Anderson spent a leisurely holiday golfing and sunning during the first two weeks in December; they visited such places as Carmel, Los Angeles, Monterey and San Francisco.

Sigfred Skarland and his sister, Anda Espeland, were visited by their brother who arrived from Sandness Norway (just 10 miles out of Stavanger) on December 13th. He will tour Canada and visit relatives during his month's stay.

Norman Nilsen returned from a Hawaiian holiday on December 1st. What a way to start the winter!

Christine Anderson is attending NAIT in a secretarial program; her plans for the future include a Business Administration course.



Initiation

Anders Anderson Jr. has been attending the Palmer Institute of Chiropractic at Davenport, Idaho; he will spend four years there to become a chiropractor.

Glenna Peterson was the recipient of a certificate won in Highland Fling and Sword Dance Competition in November. She attends the McNicol School of Dancing at St. Laurent School.

Jennifer Kristensen has been attending Grant McEwan College studying languages. She certainly has an ambitious program. Her future plans include attending the University of Alberta to obtain a B.Ed. Degree.

Lois Halberg, Betty Broen and Astrid Hope were present to welcome new Canadians at Citizenship Court on November 26th where they served tea and biscuits. Twenty-six countries were represented as 68 new Canadians received their citizenship papers; among them was Ole Hovind, one of our own.

Harry and Bea Huser celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary November 21st. Members of Sons of Norway helped them celebrate, for it was at the November general meeting.

We are pleased to hear that Ragna Sivertsen is much better following her bout with pneumonia in hospital.

We are sorry to lose another active member from our lodge. Alvin Searl, who was Assistant Marshall this past year, has moved to British Columbia.

Congratulations to Karin and Les Jackson, who announce the arrival of their daughter, Sarah Kathleen, born October 29th and weighing 9 lbs. 10 oz. Proud grandparents are members Erwin and Alice Nasset.

Congratulations on their marriage to Alvin Searl and Margaret Trytten of Swift Current; the wedding took place at St. Olaf's Lutheran Church in Swift Current on November 29th.

ICELANDIC NEWSLETTER

by Ninna Campbell

COMING EVENTS

Thorrabot — March 1st

The annual meeting of the Icelandic Society of Edmonton (Nordurljos Chapter) was held on Sunday, November 4th, at the Scandinavian Centre. The 1978-79 Board of Directors was re-elected

President - Leif Oddson
Treasurer - Harold Halldorson
Secretary - Ninna Campbell
Membership - Chris MacNaughton
Lillian MacPherson
Brinki Gudmundson
Gudbjorg Letourneau
Helen Halldorson
President, Saga Singers —
Lucille Oddson
President, Ladies' Auxiliary
Beulah Arason

Our sympathy is extended to the Johnson family in the loss of their father, Christian Michael Johnson (Mike).

Mike was a Life Member of the Icelandic Society and lent his support in all its endeavours. He will be sorely missed by all of us.

Speedy recovery wishes to: Gus Roland currently at the University Hospital - Art Arnfinnson recovering from surgery at home - Gail Mitchell at the Misericordia - Grant Sigurdson at home with a flu bug.

Margaret Cameron was honoured at a special birthday party at the home of her daughter-in-law, Penny. Many happy returns, Margaret!

Ed Hogan (Martha Arnason's brother) visited Edmonton on his way home from a holiday in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Grant MacEwan College Authors' Series presented William Valgardson as guest author in its Canadian Authors Series on November 14th.

Mr. Valgardson read several poems from his book "In The Gutting Shed" and selected his short story "The Couch" which was published in the Saturday Evening Post (April, 1977) for his reading. The vivid description and humorous characters, combined with Mr. Valgardson's expressive style, elicited many chuckles from the listeners.

Oberon Press will be distributing his novel "Gentle Sinner" in the near future. Watch for it!

For all the readers who have to send youngster off to school, I offer this tidbit:

Mrs. Johnson: "Okay, Johnny, time to get up for school."

Johnny: "I don't want to go to school."

Mrs. Johnson: "It's 8:30! You have to go to school!"

Johnny: "But mamma, I hate school. The kids don't like me. The teachers don't like me, and even the janitor doesn't like me."

Mrs. Johnson: "But you have to go! You're forty years old and you're the principal!"

Pat and Don Pettigrew of Delta, B.C., visited parents Helen and Harold Halldorson recently.

Harold's brother, Mike and his sister Dee (Dora) Conaway from California holidayed here in October.

The annual Christmas party was an unqualified success with an attendance of over 100. President Leif Oddson opened the program with Christmas greetings, followed by a carol singsong conducted by Solli Sigurdson. Entertainment was provided by Grant Sigurdson, Melan brothers, Jody and Chris Chase, the Saga Singers directed by Berkely Letourneau, and our special children's group led by Lillian MacPherson, June Parker and Ninna Campbell. Santa arrived just in time for coffee.

Merry Christmas to you all!

Next month's correspondent is Shirley Sigurdson — phone 437-2923.

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— 220 ENJOY LUTEFISK —

by Bob Burt

The Lutefisk Supper held on November 18th was a resounding success!

The ladies of the Sewing Club and all those who helped are to be commended on their part in planning, preparing and serving an excellent meal, and those who handled the ticket sales certainly contributed to the Lodge making a profit.

After-supper entertainment was begun by the Freeloaders with

Harv Haugen as Master of Ceremonies. The skits which followed were enjoyed by all, as well as the participation of Mrs. Gwen Legaarden and the senior citizens from Strathcona Centre.

Astrid Hope, Cultural Director, displayed many Norwegian ethnic artifacts, together with photos and articles of past Language Camps.

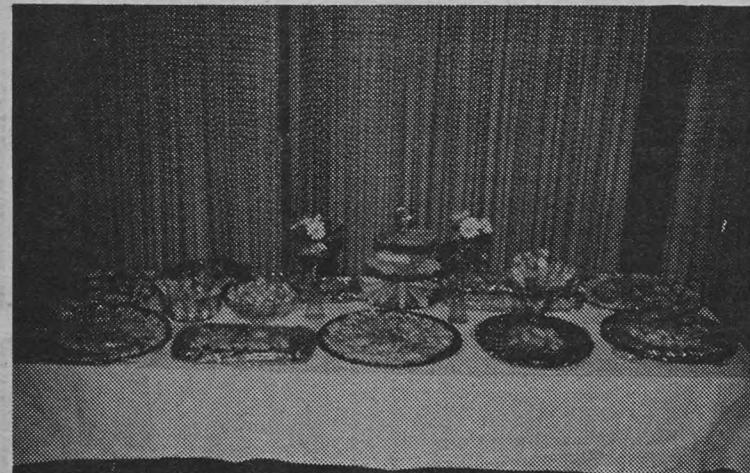
The film "Norwegians in Alberta" was shown to the large gathering, and the viewers learned a good deal about the heritage of Norway.



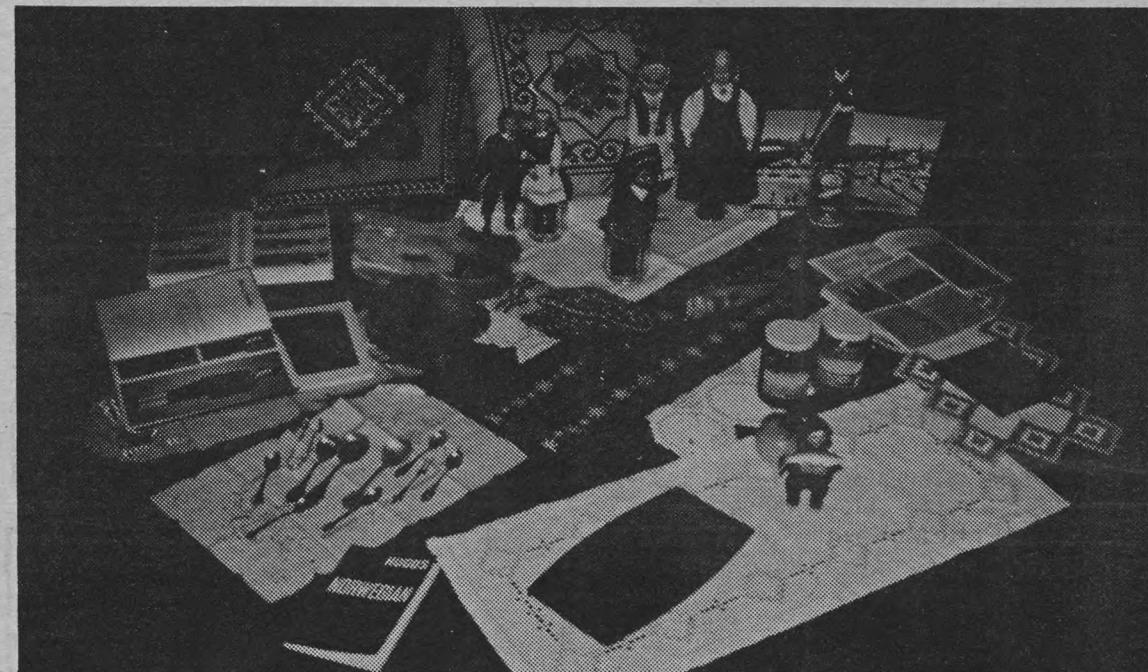
Freeloaders Entertain



Lutefisk



Norwegian Pastries



Nordland



THE OLD TRADITIONS



Generally people accept their Christmas tradition without a question. They do not stop to consider that these customs are a kind of museum, showing glimpses of their forefathers' way of life and beliefs, of pagan cults as well as of ancient Christian traditions.

But Christmas, this great Christian festival, has assimilated customs from many religions. And each country has woven its own special Christmas traditions from tangle of various threads, all leading back through the centuries.

The Christmas tree conveys the idea of growth, recuperation and life and includes pagan as well as Christian symbols.

The mistletoe we all got from the Celts, the holly from the Saxons, and the custom of giving gifts was taken over from a Roman New Year festival. And the people of Norway have among their own Christmas customs some that can be traced back to the paganism of their viking forebears.

Even Yule, or in Norwegian *Jul*, as name for the Holiday, dates back to pre-Christian times. *Joulu* or *Jol* was a pagan feast celebrated all over Northern Europe.

Historians differ as to what kind of feast this "joulu" was, also as to the exact time of the year when it was celebrated, although there

is general agreement that it must have fallen on some date during late fall or early winter. And most of them agree, too, that it was not only a fertility feast, but that it was also, or somehow came to be mixed up with, a sacrificial feast for the dead.

This combination may sound strange to modern ears. But in an agricultural society, tied to the yearly cycle of spring and summer and fall, of birth and reproduction and death, it might have seemed natural to link together fertility and death - life's emergence from and return to the unknown.

The oldest of our customs seem to be remnants of this feast. They have to do with sacrifices to the gods and to the dead, and they generally concern food and drink.

A Norse minstrel who lived about year 900 A.D., a hundred years before Norway became a Christian country, said in a poem about his King:

He drinks Yule at sea,
if he has his way,
the far-sighted chieftain.

In the same connection he mentioned *Froy*, the god of fertility, and the poem thus indicates the ancient origin of a couple of traditions mentioned above.

One is the special *juleol*, the Yuletime beer that is brewed on the farms, and in modern times also by the breweries.

The custom of brewing this special beer can be traced back through the centuries to the time when horns filled with beer during the *Joulu* festivities were dedicated to the Norse gods *Odin*, *Froy* and *Njord*. But when modern-day Norwegians at Christmastime lift their glasses in the traditional Scandinavian *skål* (pronounced *skawl*), they give little or no thought to their viking forefathers who lifted the horns of sacrificial beer to drink for peace and a good harvest.

The *juleol* tradition survived the country's conversion to Christianity simply because people refused to give it up. And the rulers wisely chose to give the old tradition new symbolic meaning, rather than abolish it by force. The beer was no longer to be considered as a sacrificial drink, it was just to be called Holiday beer. And, according to one of the old laws of the land, it should be "blessed on Christmas night, to Christ and Saint Mary".

The old poem's mention of the god *Froy*, points to the origin of another tradition. It is believed that a swine was sacrificed to *Froy* at some point during the *Joulu* celebration, and that it provided the main dish of the subsequent feast.

This may be the reason why, even today, pork is a must in most Norwegian homes during Christ-

mas. But the Christmas pork is prepared in many different ways. It may be a whole roast piglet, or it may be served as pressed pork, roast loin of pork with gravy, smoked ham or pickled pig's feet.

The belief in the *nisse* also goes back to pagan times. His ancestry as protector of the farm can be traced back to the man who, some time during the iron age, had first cultivated the land. Often this man was believed to be buried in one of the burial mounds near the houses. At Yuletime, the feast for the dead, food and drink was brought out to the mound for him, and he was believed to come out to eat and drink. During the centuries the popular image of this much respected and feared ghost changed into the less dangerous, but still at times destructive, and leprechaun-like *nisse* of Norwegian fairy tales.

But the *nisse* does not survive today only in Norwegian tradition. A strange intermingling has taken place between the Nordic *nisse* and the St. Nicolas of central Europe. The result is the queer mixture of gnome and bishop that every American child gets to know through the poem "The night before Christmas"; the jolly little Santa Claus with the red suit, the potbelly and the merry eyes. In Norway also there is a general confusion of the native *nisse* with the imported Santa Claus,

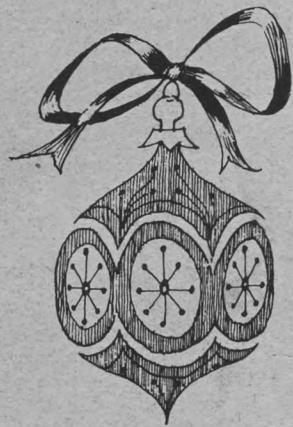
julemannen. However, the ancestor of the *nisse* was not the only ghost supposed to be around at Yule-time; the dead were believed to travel about in great crowds during this season. Food, therefore, was left on the tables for them on Christmas night, or even, in some places, for the entire Holiday season. It is an eerie thought, as one helps oneself to the traditional Christmas dishes at the famous Christmas buffets of modern day Norwegian restaurants, that the tradition of these buffets may go back to the ghostly banquets of superstition.

But even if the buffet-style serving may have such an origin, the abundance and variety of dishes may be traced to another tradition. People believed that the quantity and quality of the food served at Christmas indicated the kind of year to come. Naturally, therefore, they outdid themselves to ensure a year of abundance.

There are other Christmas traditions, too, that can be traced back to the early middle ages; the use of straw decorations and the sheaf of oats set out for the birds, for instance; as also the baking of the Christmas bread. But the origin of these customs is very uncertain: some historians hold that they have connection with the old fertility feast, others insist that they do not.



PLANT LEGENDS



MISTLETOE

So dear is this plant to Scandinavian antiquity that if enemies met by chance beneath it in a forest, they laid down their arms and maintained a truce until the next day. From this may have arisen the custom of hanging the branch over a door, entering which was a pledge of peace and friendship to be sealed by a kiss.

JAN BURT ELECTED PRESIDENT

Elected officers of Solglyt Lodge No. 143 for 1980 are —
 President - Janette Burt
 Vice-President - Norman Legaarden
 Secretary - Bea Huser
 Assistant Secretary - Minnie Townsend
 Financial Secretary - Lis Johansen
 Treasurer - Betty McEvitt
 Social Director - Sandra Nielsen
 Assistant Social Director - Gwen Legaarden
 Counsellor - Gary Johnson
 Marshall - Roy Sundby
 Assistant Marshall - Bob Burt
 Trustee - Henry Logan
 Sports Director - Vern Steinbru
 Cultural Director - Astrid Hope
 Assistant Cultural Director - Harry Huser
 Unge Venner Director - Tom Haugen
 Historian - Janette Burt
 Musician - Molly Cooper
 Publicity - Bob Burt
 Inner Guard - Harry Huser

Following the election officers a presentation was made to Del Melsness of a complete album of photos taken at the farewell party for the Melsnesses. The album was presented by Betty Haugen and most graciously accepted.

Bingo followed, called by Jan Burt, and a vote of thanks was extended to all those who donated the many prizes.



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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

The Centre regrets that because the kitchen is in full operation every day with Christmas functions, PARTY TRAYS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FROM NOVEMBER 25 THROUGH JANUARY 1ST and hopes this will not cause you great inconvenience.

HOLLY

Some persons believe that the word "Holly" is a form of the word "holy" because of the association of these evergreens with Christmas. This is not the true derivation, however. Holly is merely a variation of Holin, Hollin, or Holm, which are the names given it by the early writers such as Dodoens (1578). The name Holme is now used for a kind of Oak.

It was admired by the Druids who believed that its evergreen leaves attested to the fact that the sun never deserted it and it was therefore sacred.

A Christmas carol of the fifteenth century tells of the contest between the Holly and the Ivy for the place of honor in the hall. They have an argument which is a duet, each setting forth his or her claims to superiority. It is finally decided that the Holly with its red berries shall have the place of honor, instead of the Ivy whose berries are black. Moreover, the birds are attracted to the Holly, but only owls love Ivy!

Legends relate that the Crown of Thorns was plaited from the Holly. Before the Crucifixion the berries were white but turned crimson like drops of blood.

Holly is hateful to witches and is therefore, placed on doors and windows to keep our evil spirits.

Whoever brings the Christmas Holly into the house first, either husband or wife, is the one who will rule the ensuing year.

Does Anyone Have the Answer?

If anyone can help Mrs. Breslawski, please drop a line to us at the Scandinavian Centre News - we're interested too.

Dear Members
of the Scandinavian Centre:

I am writing to you in hopes that maybe some of you could help me to find what is called "wine bees".

When I was a small girl in 1920 a Scandinavian neighbour gave my mother these little doughlike bits that looked like a bee. She put them in a gallon jar of water and 2 tablespoons of molasses, and in a short time they multiplied into more bees, and that drink was so delicious that I still (after 50 years) remember the smell and taste. We lost the bees in the hungry 30's as we couldn't afford to get molasses.

Since I have been trying to find someone that heard of the wine bees. I was told that they remember it was started with a handful of pearl barley and molasses. I have tried time and again and haven't found the magic of what to do with the barley and how to get it started.

Maybe some old-timer in your Centre would be able to help me in my search. Please let me know. Thank you.

Mary Breslawski

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Alberta Heritage Council Meeting

by Anne Sahuri

The meeting was held at the Edmonton Inn on Nov. 16, 17, and 18, 1979. Members present representing the Scandinavian Countries were L. Lodge, S. Nordhagen and A. Sahuri.

The theme for the meeting was "Canadian Unity - A Multi Ethnic Perspective."

On Friday there was a presentation of five children's stories, where the sly fox is the main character, performed by the Ukrainian Story Theatre Group featuring five teachers from the Edmonton Public School System.

On Saturday we had a change from the usual routine and a rare opportunity to hear four excellent speakers. The first speaker was Mr. Jack O'Neill, Director of Administration, Department of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs. The second presentation was by Mrs. Jean Forest, Chancellor, University of Alberta. Then Mr. Roman Petryshyn, Research

Associate, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, spoke on the Multi-Ethnic Viewpoint. And Dr. Roger Motut, Department of Modern Languages, University of Alberta, presented a French-Canadian viewpoint.

It was very interesting to listen to all the speakers, but in my opinion one of the strongest speakers was Jean B. Forest, who said, among other things, ... "so, today I'm delighted to have been asked to speak not on family life, nor education, nor human rights, nor any other area in which I have worked for the past number of years, but rather to have been asked to speak on something which has worked for me for over half a century; something which has given me birth, has shaped my life and has influenced my future; something which has given me the right to work for and enjoy all these other good things of life. I refer, of course, to my country, and while the agenda entitled my talk "A Western Canadian

Viewpoint" - which it is, I have called it "Canada - My Country, to be or not to be."

Several years ago, not long after the election of the Parti Quebecois, an event which left many Canadians severely shaken, I was invited to participate in a panel discussion on the unity of Canada, and the person who approached me made it clear that he was looking for people who could be counted upon to be objective, and to deal with the subject on an intellectual rather than an emotional basis. My reaction was absolute incredulity; for me to discuss the future of my country, which appeared to be coming apart at the seams, and to do it without being emotional, would be like suddenly being confronted, after years of seemingly happy marriage, with the possibility of divorce, and being urged to remain calm and collected and to discuss the situation from an intellectual point of view. For me - it would be like going on a cross country tour;

- setting down on a float plane in Barclay Sound, - motoring across Vancouver Island, - ferrying across the Straits of Georgia, - venturing over the Rockies, - crossing the Prairies, the lake country of Ontario, - following the St. Lawrence, - rounding the Gaspe, - touring the Maritimes, - taking the milk run over Newfoundland, and ending up on Signal Hill, above the Gates of St. John's, and turning around and saying "so this is Canada - so what?" Well I have done all this and I can't say just that. I've done it - my children have done it, and I want my grandchildren to do it; to see this splendid magnificent country - stretching from sea to sea, and to be able to say: "This is Canada, my country, I'm a part of it, and it is a part of me" I want this for all Canadians and because I realize that they don't all share my wants and dreams. I must, I know, in speaking to them, put the lid on my emotions and tuck them under the table. I must pretend they are not there and try to be objective

about this issue of Canadian Unity. I've been trying for the past number of years, and I'll try again today"

After all the committee meetings on Saturday evening we were honoured to be present when the Latvian Community of Edmonton commemorated the Latvian Independence Day at Edmonton Plaza. The guest speaker was Dr. L. Lukss, Vice President, Latvian National Federation in Canada. During the evening two folkdancing groups presented some of their lovely native dances. One group was the Latvian Dance Group "Daina" directed by Dr. E. Rudovics, and the other was the Lithuanian Dance Group "Aiteitis" directed by Miss A. Augis.

During the meeting on Sunday the guest speaker was Mr. Duncan Green, Director of Education, Toronto Board of Education. After the extended plenary session the meeting came to an end.

CHRISTMAS IN DENMARK (Yule i Danmark)

Christmas is the oldest of Nordic festivals. Even in heathen times, midwinter festivals were held around the shortest day of the year. Gentleness, gifts and peace belonged to Yule even in heathen times. And to this day, some Christmas customs are altogether not free from the influence of both old heathen and early Christian tradition.

Christmas preparations begin with mailing of greeting cards and letters for relatives and friends abroad to which you attach the Christmas seal of the year. - Each year a new design is issued - a mini work of art. The revenue from these seals goes toward convalescence facilities for ailing children. Then, when all the mail is sent, you can look forward to all the nice greetings returning to you.

On the first Sunday of advent (fourth Sunday before Christmas) many Danes hang up a wreath of pine twigs mounted with four candles and light one candle for a short while after dusk. The following Sundays the additional candles will be lit, till on the last Sunday before Christmas all four candles are burning.

Children begin their Christmas countdown on December 1. - They

light their tall 24-day candle once every day. Many Danish youngsters also have a Christmas calendar. It may be a cardboard house with 24 windows or a homemade tapestry with 24 hooks to which are attached 24 little parcels, one for each day. This countdown takes place in the morning, and therefore it causes no problem to get the children out of bed in the dark December mornings.

In early December decoration of the home begins in earnest. Cut-out pixies and fairies find their way around the house peaking from behind picture frames and mirrors. And in the dark winter-nights the whole family gathers around the dining room table with scissors, glue and coloured paper to fold, and all the traditional figures for the Christmas tree like cones, baskets, angels, birds and hearts are produced.

A day or two before Christmas it's time to get a tree. Many are available, either from one of the many stands or from the woods, where you can chop down the tree that suits your taste. - The Christmas tree as a symbol of Christmas is relatively recent in Denmark. In Alsace it was known as early as the 16th century. In Denmark and

in Sweden the Christmas tree was introduced in the early 19th century.

Christmas cooking is traditional in Denmark although you hear many a house-wife say, "This year, I simply don't intend to exhaust myself! We'll buy what we need - the baker's ginger biscuits are really a treat...." - But somehow most of the family ends up in the kitchen anyway, mixing flour, kneading dough and shaping gingerbread men. And gradually the consensus is that nobody can quite make liverpaste the way MUM does - and Dad's special mixture of marinated herring is a 'must' at every Christmastime. And so things are back as they were last year.

The conclusion is, though, that you have enough food to last you all through the Christmas holiday all the way into the New Year.

Christmas Eve is the biggest evening of the year, the most beautiful. Relatives travelling to relatives, last minute shopping, the tree is brought in and decorated out of sight to the children and a wonderful smell of something cooking wafts from the kitchen. The traditional Christmas Eve dinner in Denmark starts after church, around 6 p.m., with a rice

pudding with one solitary almond. The finder wins a prize, often a marzipan porker. Then the menu moves on to roast pork, duck, goose or turkey accompanied by candied potatoes, red cabbage and jelly. - If there are children at the table, the meal seldom lasts long - they cannot stand the suspense.

The tree is lit, everybody forms a ring round the tree, holding hands, singing Christmas carols and then the moment arrives when we open the parcels that were placed under the tree. Surprise is an important element. The excitement is over, and gradually the best evening of the year draws to a close.

Christmas Day is rather sociable - with a busy menu. - Groaning lunchtables in the company of family and friends, and all the delicious food is washed down with beer and snaps. Boxing Day is virtually a repeat performance, but it may also be a relaxed 'unorganized' day with everyone lying around recovering from a hectic time.

After Boxing Day things get back to normal, but in fact they don't - not yet. The Christmas tree is still standing there, the kids run

around it singing as if Christmas was tomorrow.

New Year's Eve in Denmark!

In many Danish homes New Year's Eve is a quiet, traditional evening for young and old together. An appetizing meal, a few games with the children - a few crackers and perhaps some fireworks. Around midnight the family welcomes the New Year with a toast.

But in perhaps the majority of homes, especially the younger, the occasion calls for a party with all the masked fun and games of carnival, streamers and champagne, a shower of fireworks and practical jokes throughout the neighbourhood - with bicycles perched up on garage roofs and garden gates hung up the neighbour's flagpole. - Then back to the party and dance the rest of the night away.

So Christmas is over. - Well, not quite. It lasts 13 days. The 12th is ... the Twelfth Night. The Danes light three candles - as a token substitute for the Christmas tree, which has now been moved into the garden, where it will be decorated with strings of fat and nuts for the birds.

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PHIL OLSTAD

Sincere sympathy is extended by the Sons of Norway to the Olstad family on the death of Phil Olstad, one-time treasurer of Solgylt Lodge.

Phil passed away September 24th at the age of 60. He leaves his loving wife, Evelyn, a son, Alistair, and a daughter, Karen; also a sister, Vivian Richards, of Houston, Texas, and two brothers, Hollis of Edmonton, and Gordon of Calgary.

Phil's grandfather was the first to break soil at Camrose. Phil was born at Binford, North Dakota, moved to Pelican Rapids, Minnesota, to New Norway in 1936, to Camrose in 1937, and Edmonton in 1943. He worked on the Alaska Highway and with Armco for 32 years.



by Anja Sahuri

I wish to thank the Finnish Society for the lovely flowers I received while in hospital. - Helvi Rastas.

The annual meeting of the Finnish Society will be held on Sunday, Jan. 13, 1980, starting at 2 p.m. at the Scandinavian Centre. Everyone is urged to attend. New members are welcome.

The adult Christmas party was really a big success with so many people attending, and the sale of the few items we had was very well received. All in all the

evening was very good. Thanks to all the ladies for sandwiches and Joulupuuro. And thank you to everyone who helped in ticket selling, etc.

The Finnish Consul, Christian Graefe, held a reception on Dec. 6th, 1979 at the Scandinavian Centre to celebrate Finland's Independence Day. Among the many dignitaries who attended was the Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, George Lynch Staunton.

Are you interested in Bowling? If so, please phone Mr. Makarainen at 455-2453.

APPLICATIONS NOW ACCEPTED

Scandinavian Seminar is now accepting applications for its 1980-81 academic year abroad in Denmark, Finland, Norway or Sweden. This unique learning experience is designed for college students, graduates and other adults who want to study in a Scandinavian country, becoming part of another culture and learning its language.

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For further information, please write to: SCANDINAVIAN SEMINAR, 100 East 85th Street, New York, N.Y. 10028

MICHAEL JOHNSON PASSES



'Mike' Johnson

A lifetime member of the Edmonton Icelandic Community, Michael, Christian Johnson, passed away October 24th.

Mike was born in 1889 in Tantallon, Saskatchewan. He proved up a homestead in the Myrid district, and then went on to become a Fuller Brush salesman in Edmonton, Alberta. On July 11, 1921, Mike married Agnes Perhik; they had three sons, Jack, Earl and Keith.

Mike became a grain buyer at Kelsey, Alberta, then moved to Lougheed and Round Hill.

Mike was always a devoted family man, as well as a conscientious community worker. Mike and his violin were always a welcome addition to any community function.

In 1941, Mike and his family moved to Edmonton. He continued his interest in community affairs and sports, playing golf and bowling until his late eighties. He was very proud of his Icelandic heritage, and paid a visit to the land of his heritage after his 85th birthday. He was very glad to have been able to visit with his neice and family in Reykjavik. He was a member of the Scandinavian Centre and the Icelandic Society and was always ready to participate in the activities and enjoyed taking part in the Icelandic annual festivities.

The eulogy for Mike was given by Alf Simmons, an old friend and neighbour from Round Hill, who recounted many of the kind and generous acts that Mike had done for his fellowmen. One of Mike's closing wishes was that if anyone wished to do something in his memory, he would ask that they do a kindness to someone else.

Besides his many friends, Mike leaves to mourn his loss his three sons and their families: Jack and Olive, Earl & Bessie, Keith & Anne, six grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

LADIES HONOURED

by Bob Burt

At Torske Klubben's 8th annual Ladies' Night, Sig Sorenson outlined the history of our local club which began in February, 1970, with Harv Haugen as Boss. Torske Klubben's objective is fellowship and fun, and its main project is sponsorship of the annual Summer Language Camp.

Astrid Hope, Cultural Director of Solglyt Lodge, who has been an instructor at Camp each year since its inception, spoke of the success of the project and what it means to so many families.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Sev Berg, and guest speaker was Lief Stolee, Vice-Principal of Harry Ainley School. He is a firm believer in Departmental Examinations for Grade XII students, and throughout his talk he supported his conviction, forcefully roasting the MACOSA Committee on its findings and report. Torske Klubben presented Mr. Stolee with a rose malmed plaque.

Del Melsness was present with his daughter — attending his last lodge function before leaving for Vancouver Island; he was also presented with a rose malmed plaque as a memento of Torske Klubben.

Knut and Eva Lie, recent new Canadians from Norway, were welcomed as guests.

Also guests were 'The Gold Diggers', the Barbershop Quartet, and their partners, including singers Tim Rycroft, Dave Buffy, Ross Farrell and Dennis Gobbel. Their songs portrayed "This is your Life, Harv Haugen", covering his work in show-biz.

Ken Domier was acclaimed Boss for a second term; those present rose and accorded him a standing ovation. He will name his co-workers at a later date.

Bob Burt was also honoured for his work in publicity and as treasurer over the past several years.

The Toast to the Ladies was made by Knut Svidal and responded to by Betty Broen. Gary Johnson, president of Solglyt, brought Torske members up to date on happenings in the parent lodge.

The banquet included black cod, carrots, potatoes flatbread and dessert, and there was plenty of akavit, wine, and Cloudberry liqueur available. Altogether it was a great evening!

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— BUFORD VASA LODGE —

by Wanda Markstedt

December 7 was the date of the Christmas dinner of Buford Vasa Lodge members at the Willow Creek Community Centre.

Mrs. Hilda Modin, who has undergone surgery in an Edmonton hospital, has been transferred to the Leduc General Hospital to recuperate.

Dan Denman flew to Vancouver for several days for a business meeting. He has recently been promoted to manager of Tubeco Industries in Edmonton.

Mrs. Gunhild Ladouceur and her brothers Hans and Gunnar Hanson visited their sister and all other kinfolk in Sweden this fall. They report a wonderful time in spite of the high cost of living in Sweden.

Kenny Johnson recently treated his parents, Bernard and Dolores Johnson, to a 24th anniversary gift they really enjoyed; he took them for a night out at the Red Barn.

Anthony Lefsrud, who has been on the sick list the past month, is recovering nicely.

The Roger Gunsch family has done quite well in rodeo work the past year. At the Edmonton Riding and Roping Association banquet, which is held annually, the finals awards were presented. Roger received a saddle blanket for team roping; Tracy won two buckles for junior barrel racing and goat un-decorating, and third prize for novice team roping. Jimmy was awarded two saddle blankets for being runner-up in novice team roping and junior goat un-decorating.

Season's Greetings to all.

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MORE ABOUT NIDELVEN

by Olaf Sveen

This is meant to be a supplement to Astrid Hope's heartwarming story about Nidvelen in the November issue of the paper, because nothing is mentioned about the composer of the melody to that popular song. His name is Chris Christensen, born in Slagen i Vestfold in the year 1919, a well known veteran accordion player in Norway. He was the one who wrote the melody to Nidvelen, and the year was 1941, but it did not become a big hit before 1945, the year the war was over.

It is hard to tell what makes a song a hit, the lyrics or the melody, or both. At one time I had three brothers by the name of Mohr as students on the

accordion, they have all quit now, thank goodness, and they claimed they were distant relatives of the man who wrote the lyrics to Silent Night. I also had a student by the name of Gruber, and it was a Gruber who wrote the melody to Silent Night, but for some reason I never heard of any connection between him and the composer. Let us say that to make a good song we will have to give the one who writes the melody and the one who writes the lyrics half of the credit each, and that is why Chris Christensen along with Oskar Hodd should be remembered as one of the creators of the great hit Nidvelen.

NEEDED — FOR NEXT YEAR

The Edmonton Heritage Festival Committee requires volunteers for next year to work at their Casinos. If you can help phone Anne Sahuri after 6:00 p.m. — 489-7515.

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